(d) what steps Government have taken to make telephone available to the consumers on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, sir. There are about 3.5 lakhs consumers in the waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.01.2001 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) It has been planned to clear the waiting list by September, 2001.

(d) As per New Telecom Policy 1999, it is planned to provide telephone on demand by the year 2002 with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of the department.

Telephone Facilities in the Villages of Bihar

†592. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the villages in Bihar where telephone facility is not yet available; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide telephone facility in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 24,772 villages in Bihar State are without telecom facility as on 31.1.2001. District-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*see* below)

(b) All these remaining villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March, 2002.

Statement

Sl. No.	Revenue Distt.	Villages without Telephone Facility as on 31/1/2001
1	Bhojpur	438
2	Buxer	522

†.Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Revenue Distt.	Villages without Telephone Facility as on 31/1/2001
3	Bhagalpur	141
4	Banka	1106
5	Chapra	1021
6	Siwan	984
7	Gopalganj	1094
8	Darbhanga	658
9	Madhubani	587
10	Samastipur	629
11	Gaya	2099
12	Nawada	602
13	Jahanabad	535
14	Aurangabad	1333
15	Vaishali	734
16	Purnia	942
17	Katihar	1192
18	Kishanganj	549
19	Nougachia	32
20	Araria	423
21	Khagaria	98
22	Begusarai	138
23	East Champaran	382
24	West Champaran	888
25	Munger	201
26	Jamui	1071
27	Lakhisarai	136
28	Sheikhpura	606
29	Muzaffarpur	1135
30	Sitamarhia	265
31	Shiohar	120
32	Patna	692
33	Nalanda	573
34	Saharsa	127
35	Supaul	208

Sl. No.	Revenue Distt.	Villages without Telephone Facility as on 31/1/2001
36	Madhepura	72
37	Rohtas	1352
38	Kaimur	1087
	TOTAL	24772

Telecommunication services in Western Konkan part of Maharashtra

593. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated a comprehensive action plan for developing telecommunication in rural areas particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for inefficient and ineffective telecommunication in rural areas particularly Western Konkan part of Maharashtra and the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen, expand and upgrade telecommunication in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The development plan for 2000-01 for the rural areas of Maharashtra is given below:

Parameters	Target	Achievement (upto 31.1.2001)
DELs (rural)	1,00,000	1,09,000
Rural Exchanges	800	566